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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C08K 5/00, C08L 27/12 // (C08K 5/00, 5:00, 5:00, 5:14) (C08L 27/12, 27:12, 27:18)</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: WO 95/02634 (43) International Publication Date: 26 January 1995 (26.01.95)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US94/07593 (22) International Filing Date: 14 July 1994 (14.07.94) (30) Priority Data: 08/093,239 16 July 1993 (16.07.93) US (71) Applicant: E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US). (72) Inventors: LEGARE, John, Michael; 101 Carla Court, Newark, DE 19711-8505 (US). THOMAS, Eric, William; 2448 Olde Farm Lane, Hudson, OH 44236-2340 (US). (74) Agents: BROMELS, Marilyn, H. et al.; E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Legal/Patent Records Center, 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: JP, KR, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>
<p>(54) Title: HIGH PURITY FLUOROELASTOMER COMPOSITIONS (57) Abstract Fluoroelastomer compositions with minimal concentrations of extractable metal species exhibit excellent performance characteristics under conditions requiring exceptional purity.</p>		

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HIGH PURITY FLUOROELASTOMER COMPOSITIONS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Fluoroelastomers such as those described in U. S. Patents 3,682,872, 4,281,092 and 4,592,784 have achieved outstanding commercial success, and are used in a wide variety of applications in which unusually severe environments are encountered, including high temperatures and aggressive chemicals. Particularly successful have been those fluoroelastomers based on vinylidene fluoride copolymerized with hexafluoropropylene and, optionally, tetrafluoroethylene. A wide variety of crosslinking mechanisms has been proposed for such fluoroelastomers. One particularly desirable fluoroelastomer is that described in Moore U. S. Patent 5,032,655, containing both bromine and iodine in the basic polymer structure; while particularly desirable perfluoroelastomers are described in Apotheker et al, U. S. Patent 4,035,565.

The manufacture of electronic components, such as semiconductor devices, presents unusually stringent requirements for sealing components used in such processing. Previous fluoroelastomers and curing systems have not met this need.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The instant invention provides fluoroelastomer compositions which can be effectively used for stringent, high purity applications.

Specifically, the instant invention provides a fluoroelastomer composition comprising:

- (A) at least one peroxide-curable elastomeric fluoropolymer,
 - 25 and, based on the elastomeric fluoropolymer,
 - (B) about 0.1 - 5.0 phr organic acid acceptor;
 - (C) about 0.1 - 5.0 phr organic peroxide; and
 - (D) about 0.1 - 10.0 phr coagent for the organic peroxide;
- the composition being substantially free from extractable metals and metal compounds.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A wide variety of elastomeric fluoropolymers can be used in the compositions of the present invention, including both perfluoropolymers as well

as hydrogen-containing fluoropolymers. The fluoropolymers contain moieties to render the polymer crosslinkable by use of peroxide curing systems.

Hydrogen-containing fluoropolymers which can be used in this invention are generally based on vinylidene fluoride (VF₂) monomer. The most common hydrogen-containing fluoropolymers are copolymers of VF₂ with hexafluoropropylene (HFP) and optionally tetrafluoroethylene (TFE). However, the use of other fluoromonomers and of monomers that do not contain fluorine is well known. Other monomers that can be used include chlorotrifluoroethylene (CTFE), hydrocarbon olefins such as ethylene (E) or propylene (P), and perfluoro (alkyl vinyl) ether (PAVE) having the formula $CF_2 = CFO(CF_2CFXO)_nR_f$ wherein X is F or CF₃, n is 0-5, and R_f is a perfluoroalkyl group of 1 - 6 carbon atoms. A preferred PAVE for use in hydrogen-containing fluoroelastomers is perfluoro(methyl vinyl) ether (PMVE). Fluoropolymers incorporating such monomers include TFE/VF₂/PMVE, E/TFE/PMVE, TFE/P and TFE/P/VF₂.

Still other perfluoropolymers which can be used in the compositions of the present invention include those prepared from TFE and one or more PAVE. Minor portions of the TFE can be replaced by other perhaloolefins, such as CTFE. PAVE preferred for use in this invention include (PMVE), perfluoro(propyl vinyl) ether (PPVE), and certain PAVE for which n is not zero in the formula above.

Perfluoropolymers which can be used in the present invention are prepared primarily from two or more perfluorinated monomers such as tetrafluoroethylene (TFE) or other perfluoroolefins, and perfluoro (alkyl vinyl) ether wherein the alkyl group contains 1 to 5 carbon atoms. Typical of such reactants are perfluoro (methyl vinyl) ether (PMVE) and perfluoro (propyl vinyl) ether (PPVE). These monomers are typically used in conjunction with a comonomer which facilitates crosslinking. Small concentrations of monomers which are not perfluorinated can also be used. Normally, such monomers are employed to obtain desirable crosslinking characteristics and may be present in concentrations of up to about 3 mole %. Examples of such monomers include bromotetrafluorobutene, bromotrifluoroethylene, vinylidene fluoride and monomers containing cyano groups.

Alternatively or additionally, chain transfer agents that are not perfluorinated can be used in the polymerization reaction to introduce desirable fragments into the polymer for curing purposes, and are considered cure site moieties in the context of the present invention. Such agents include di-iodo compounds that result in bound iodine in the polymer, commonly at the end of the molecule.

Representative peroxide-curable fluoropolymers which can be used in the present compositions are described in Apotheker et al., U. S. Patent 4,035,565; Tatemoto et al., U. S. Patent 4,243,770; Albin, U. S. Patent 4,564,662; Arcella et al., U. S. Patent 4,745,154; Moore, U. S. Patent 4,948,852; Moore, U. S. Patent 4,973,633; Logothetis, U.S. Patent 4,948,853; Breazeale, U.S. Patent 4,281,092, Finlay, U.S. Patent 4,529,784, Logothetis, U.S. Patent 4,972,038 and Arcella et al., U. S. Patent 5,177,148, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The fluoroelastomer compositions of the present invention further include about 0.1 - 5.0 phr of an organic acid acceptor.

A wide variety of acid acceptors can be used, so long as the acid acceptor is a strong organic base, having a pKa of at least about 10, and preferably at least about 12. One such base that has been found to be particularly satisfactory is 1,8-bis-(dimethylamino) naphthalene, commercially available from Aldrich Chemical Company as Proton Sponge. Another particularly satisfactory acid acceptor is octadecyl amine, commercially available from Akzo Chemicals, Inc. as Armeen 18-D. Still other organic acid acceptors which can be used are the oxiranes described in MacLachlan, U. S. Patent 4,271,275 hereby incorporated by reference. Particularly satisfactory are glycidyl resins that are a condensation product of bisphenol A and epichlorohydrin. Organo-silanes such as 3-glycidoxypentyl trimethoxy silanes can also be used. The organic base acts as an accelerator, process aid and acid scavaging agent. It has been found to improve the physical characteristics of the cured fluoroelastomer. It also has been found to substantially reduce the anionic extractables, particularly fluoride, of the cured fluoroelastomer. In general, 0.1 to 5.0 phr of organic acid acceptor are used, and about from 0.1 to 1.0 phr have been found to be particularly satisfactory.

The fluoroelastomer compositions of the present invention further comprise about 0.1 - 5.0 phr of at least one organic peroxide. A wide variety of organic peroxides can be used, provided the organic peroxide is of the alkyl type. One organic peroxide that has been found to be particularly
5 satisfactory is 2, 5-dimethyl-2,5-di (t-butylperoxy) hexane, commercially available from Atochem, Inc. as Lupersol 101. The organic peroxide has been found to be particularly satisfactory in concentrations of about 1-3 phr. While some forms of the organic peroxide are available on an inert carrier, such as Lupercol 101-
10 XL (45% active ingredient), the concentrations indicated are based on 100% active organic peroxide.

The fluoroelastomer compositions of the present invention further comprise organic coagent to aid in the crosslinking reaction. In general, the coagent is present in an amount between about 0.1 and about 10
15 phr, and preferably between 2 and 5 phr. A wide variety of organic coagents can be used, including triallyl isocyanurate, trimethylallyl isocyanurate and trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate, of which trimethylallyl isocyanurate has been found to be particularly satisfactory. Triallyl isocyanurate and trimethylallyl isocyanurate are available from the DuPont Company as Diak #7
20 and Diak #8. Trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate is commercially available from the Sartomer Company as Saret 350.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the fluoroelastomer composition further comprises about from 1 to 50 phr of a fluoropolymer filler, and preferably at least about 2 phr of the filler.

25 The fluoropolymer filler used in the present fluoroelastomer compositions can be any finely divided, easily dispersed plastic fluoropolymer that is solid at the highest temperature utilized in fabrication and curing of the fluoroelastomer composition. By solid, it is meant that the fluoroplastic, if partially crystalline, has a crystalline melting temperature above the elastomeric
30 fluoropolymer processing temperature, and, if amorphous, has a glass transition temperature above the elastomeric fluoropolymer processing temperature. Such finely divided, easily dispersed fluoropolymers are commonly called micropowders or fluoroadditives. Micropowders are ordinarily partially crystalline polymers.

Micropowders that can be used in the compositions of this invention can include those based on the group of polymers known as tetrafluoroethylene (TFE) polymers. This group includes homopolymers of TFE (PTFE) and copolymers of TFE with such small concentrations of

5 copolymerizable modifying monomers that the resins remain non-melt-fabricable (modified PTFE). The modifying monomer can be, for example, hexafluoropropylene (HPF), perfluoro(propyl vinyl) ether (PPVE), perfluorobutyl ethylene, chlorotrifluoroethylene, or other monomers that introduces side groups into the molecule. The concentration of such modifiers

10 is usually less than 1 mole%.

The PTFE resins used in the compositions of this invention include both those derived from suspension polymerization and from emulsion polymerization. The group of TFE polymers also includes melt-fabricable copolymers of TFE with sufficient concentrations of one or more

15 copolymerizable monomer to reduce the melting point significantly below that of PTFE. Such copolymers generally have melt viscosity in the range $0.5-60 \times 10^3$ Pa-s, but viscosities outside this range are known. Comonomers with TFE can include perfluoroolefins and perfluoro(alkyl vinyl) ethers, for example, and these are preferred. Among perfluorinated comonomers, HFP and PPVE are

20 most preferred.

High molecular weight PTFE used for micropowder is usually subjected to ionizing radiation to reduce molecular weight. This facilitates grinding and enhances friability if the PTFE is produced by the suspension polymerization process, or suppresses fibrillation and enhances

25 deagglomeration if the PTFE is produced by the emulsion polymerization process. It is also possible to polymerize TFE directly to PTFE micropowder by appropriate control of molecule weight in the emulsion polymerization process. Morgan, in U. S. Patent 4,879,362, discloses a non-melt-fabricable, non-fibrillating TFE copolymer produced by the emulsion (dispersion)

30 polymerization process that can be used in selected high purity fluoroelastomer compositions. This polymer forms platelets on shear blending into elastomeric compositions, instead of fibrillating. Morgan & Stewart, in U. S. Patent 4,904,726, disclose the utility of Morgan's polymer in blends with elastomers, demonstrating benefit to mechanical properties, notably tear strength. If the

viscosity of the host fluoroelastomer of the high purity composition of this invention is high, Morgan's polymer may increase viscosity to unacceptable levels and a different micropowder should be selected.

Melt fabricable TFE copolymers such as FEP (TFE/HFP
5 copolymer) and PFA (TFE/PPVE copolymer) can also be used in the high
purity fluoroelastomer compositions of this invention, provided they satisfy the
constraint on melting temperature with respect to fluoroelastomer processing
temperature. These copolymers can be used in powder form as isolated from
the polymerization medium, if particle size is acceptable, or can be ground to
10 suitable particle size starting with stock of larger dimensions.

In general, at least about 2 phr, based on the peroxide-curable
elastomeric fluoropolymer, of the fluoropolymer filler is used, and generally
less than about 50 phr. Preferably, about 5-35 phr of the fluoropolymer filler
is used in the present compositions. Those fluoropolymer fillers commercially
15 available from the DuPont Company as Teflon® MP-1500 and Teflon® MP-
1600 fluoroadditives have been found to particularly satisfactory in the present
invention.

The compositions can further include additives to enhance
processability, as will be evident to those skilled in the art. The compositions
20 of the present invention can further comprise at least about 1 phr of plasticizer,
and generally less than about 20 phr. In general, less than about 10 phr are
preferred. Plasticizers which have been found particularly satisfactory include
perfluoropolyethers.

In accordance with the present invention, it has been found that
25 satisfactory performance for fluoroelastomers in certain applications requires
the absence or particularly low concentrations of certain components.
Specifically, the fluoroelastomer compositions must be substantially free from
metals and metal compounds. Representative of such metals and metal
compounds are those for which results are reported in the Examples and
30 Comparative Examples. In general, the concentrations of total metallic
extractables should be less than about 500 parts per billion (ppb), and
particularly desirable performance characteristics are obtained when the total
metallic extractables is less than 200 ppb.

Fluoroelastomer compositions of the present invention are particularly suited for use in wet chemical environments, and exhibit significantly lower metallic, anionic and TOC extractables than previously known compositions. As result, they are especially suited for use in semiconductor wet chemical process applications as well as in other types of high purity applications.

The following test procedures are used to determine extractables:

Experimental Procedure

Extraction vessels (250 ml Teflon® PFA 440-HP jars with screw lids) were filled with ultrapure deionized water, capped with a screw lid and placed in a nitrogen-purged oven at 80°C for 16 hours. The deionized water was discarded after each rinse. The above procedure was repeated five times to effectively precondition the extraction vessels. The extraction vessels were then filled with the appropriate test fluid and placed in an oven for 72 hours @ 80°C. The test fluid was discarded and the procedure repeated. The following high purity grade chemicals were used as the extraction test fluids in this study.

- (a) 18 mega-ohm Ultrapure Deionized Water (UPDI)
- (b) "Piranha" - 3:1 (v/v) of 96% Sulfuric Acid and 30% Hydrogen Peroxide

O-ring test specimens were first preconditioned by rinsing with ultrapure deionized water, followed by soaking in ultrapure deionized water for 20 minutes in a polypropylene container in an ultrasonic bath. Preconditioned extraction vessels were filled with 100 mls of the appropriate test fluid. One AS568A size -214 o-ring (total surface area 1.540 sq. in.; estimated contact surface area 1.385 sq. in.) was placed in the test fluid and the extraction vessel capped. The o-ring was immersed in the test fluid for 1 month at 80°C. Two o-ring samples were tested per each compound example listed in Tables II and VI. Three blanks (test fluid only) were also run per test fluid.

After immersion, the o-rings were removed from the extraction vessel and rinsed with ultrapure deionized water to remove residual test fluid. The extract was analyzed for metallic, anionic and total organic carbon extractables using a number of different analytical techniques. Metallic extractables analyses were performed using ICP-MS (Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectroscopy). Calcium and Iron analyses were performed using

GFAA (Graphite Furnace Atomic Absorption). Anionic and cationic extractable analyses were performed using Ion Chromatography. TOC (Total Organic Carbon) analyses were performed using a TOC analyzer. Test results are listed in Tables III, IV, VII and VIII. All test results have been blank corrected. Results are expressed as ppb (parts per billion) leached in 100 mls of test fluid @ 80°C for 1 month from 1 o-ring.

Typically, no carbon filler is added to the present compositions, and the compositions exhibit a low Total Organic Carbon content.

The present compositions can be used in a wide variety of applications which require exceptionally high purity. Typical of such applications are those found in the electronic, optical, medical and pharmaceutical industries. The combination of physical properties, curing characteristics, and purity found in the present compositions has heretofore not been known.

In the following examples, compounds of the fluoroelastomer with other specified ingredients were prepared on a two-roll rubber mill with the rolls heated to a temperature not greater than about 60°C, depending on the specific polymer being processed. In the mill mixing process, the fluoroelastomer polymer is first introduced to the roll nip alone, milled until a band is formed and the polymer is well blended, and milled until a rolling bank is maintained on the mill. Additives, including Teflon® fluoroadditive, which were previously weighed out, were then added to the nip and the resulting composition milled until uniform.

The compounded blends were converted to a form suitable for physical property testing by compression molding into either dumbbells or o-rings. Curing and postcuring followed procedures outlined in the various examples. Specimens for physical property testing were prepared from die-cut sheet stock as called for by the test methods summarized in Table I.

TABLE I
PHYSICAL TEST METHODS

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Physical Property</u>	<u>Test Method</u>
M100	Modulus @ 100% Elongation	ASTM D-412

Tb	Tensile strength @ break	ASTM D-412
Eb	Elongation @ break	ASTM D-412
H	Durometer A Hardness	ASTM D-2240
CS	Compression Set	ASTM D-395 & ASTM D-1414

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COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE A

Perfluoroelastomer Polymer A is an elastomeric copolymer of TFE, PMVE and 8-CNVE in which 8-CNVE is curesite monomer perfluoro-
 10 (8-cyano-5-methyl-3, 6-dioxa-1-octene). It was prepared generally as described in U. S. Patent 4,281,092. Polymer A was compounded with carbon black, tetraphenyltin and other ingredients as listed in Table II, molded/postcured and tested according to procedures described above. O-ring test specimens were presscured for 20' @ 210°C, then postcured in a nitrogen atmosphere in a
 15 circulating oven at 90°C for 6 hours, followed by a uniform transition to 305°C over 10 hours and in turn followed by 26 hours @ 305°C. Physical property test results are listed in Table II. "Wet" chemical extraction test results are listed in Tables III and IV. The results listed in Table II are based on the average of three test specimens. The wet chemical extraction test results listed
 20 in Tables III and IV are based on the average of two samples tested.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE B

Perfluoroelastomer Polymer B is an elastomeric copolymer of TFE, PMVE and VF2 in which VF2 is the curesite monomer vinylidene fluoride. It was generally prepared as described in U. S. Patent 4,529,784.
 25 Polymer B was compounded with carbon black, zinc oxide and other ingredients as listed in Table II, molded/postcured and tested according to the procedures described above. O-ring test specimens were presscured for 30' @ 210°C, then postcured in a nitrogen atmosphere in a circulating oven by first increasing the temperature slowly from room temperature to 260°C over a 40
 30 hour period followed by postcuring for 8 hours @ 260°C. Physical property test results are summarized in Table II. "Wet" chemical extraction test results are summarized in Tables III and IV. The results in Table II are based on the average of three test specimens. The wet chemical extraction test results in Table III and IV are based on the average of two samples tested.

EXAMPLES 1 - 3

Perfluoroelastomer Polymer C is an elastomeric copolymer of TFE, PMVE and BTFB in which BTFB is curesite monomer 4-bromo-3, 3, 4, 4-tetrafluorobutene. It is prepared generally as described in U. S. Patent 4,035,065. Polymer C was compounded with trimethylallyl isocyanurate (TMAIC) and other ingredients as listed in Table II, molded/postcured and tested according to procedures described above. O-ring test specimens were prepared from die cut sheet stock. Specimens were presscured for 10' @ 177°C, then postcured in a nitrogen atmosphere in a circulating oven by first increasing the temperature slowly from room temperature to 232°C over a 40 hours period followed by postcuring for 8 hours @ 232°C. Physical property test results are listed in Table II. "Wet" chemical extraction test results are listed in Table III and Table IV. The results listed in Table II are based on the average of three test specimens. The wet chemical extraction test results listed in Table III and IV are based on the average of two samples tested.

TABLE II
EXAMPLES/FORMULATIONS
PHYSICAL PROPERTY TEST RESULTS

EXAMPLE FORMULATION (phr)	A	B	1	2	3	4
POLYMER A	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
POLYMER B	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
POLYMER C	-	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
POLYMER D	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
SAF CARBON BLACK (a)	12.0	10.0	-	-	-	-
18 CROWN 6 (b)	0.3	-	-	-	-	-
DCH 18 CROWN 6 (c)	-	4.0	-	-	-	-
KADOX 911 (d)	-	4.0	-	-	-	-
TEFLON MP-1600	-	-	-	5.0	5.0	-
FLUOROPOLYMER RESIN (e)	-	-	-	5.0	5.0	-
PERFLUOROPOLYETHER OIL (f)	-	10.0	-	-	5.0	-
PROTON SPONGE	-	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
DIAC # 7 (TAIC)	-	1.5	-	-	-	-
DIAC # 8 (TMAIC)	-	-	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
LUPERCO 101-XL	-	1.5	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
TETRAPHENYL TIN (g)	3.0	-	-	-	-	-
K2AF CURATIVE (h)	-	5.0	-	-	-	-

TABLE II (CONTINUED)
EXAMPLES/FORMULATIONS
PHYSICAL PROPERTY TEST RESULTS

EXAMPLE	A	B	1	2	3	4
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES						
M100, psi	1119	1395	636	947	711	595
Tb, psi	1622	1611	1516	2005	1598	1326
Eb, psi	123	114	181	177	180	173
H, pts	81	84	81	86	82	80
CS, %	29.6	33.1	39.5	45.7	46.7	35.2

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- (a) Cabot Corporation
 (b) Parish Chemical Co.
 (c) PCR, Inc.
 (d) Zinc Corp. of America
 (e) DuPont Company
 (f) DuPont Company
 (g) Atochem, Inc.
 (h) DuPont Company

TABLE III
ULTRAPURE DEIONIZED WATER EXTRACTABLES FOR 1 MONTH @ 80°C
LEACHABLES FROM 1 O-RING PER 100 MLS OF TEST FLUID
BLANK CORRECTED RESULTS

EXAMPLES METALLIC EXTRACTABLE DETECTED	A (ppb)	B (ppb)	1 (ppb)	2 (ppb)	3 (ppb)	4 (ppb)
Al	9.5	18.4	0.9	2.6	1.2	2.1
Cu	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.9
Mg	2.7	3.9			0.5	0.6
Zn	0.5	71.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.5
Ni		2.8				
Fe	3.6	1.5				
Ca	15.4	29.9	41.5	64	71	76.5
K	3.5	71.5				
Na	7	6.4	2.5	7.5	4	2

TABLE III (CONTINUED)
ULTRAPURE DEIONIZED WATER EXTRACTABLES FOR 1 MONTH @ 80°C
LEACHABLES FROM 1 O-RING PER 100 MLS OF TEST FLUID
BLANK CORRECTED RESULTS

EXAMPLES ELEMENTAL EXTRACTABLE DETECTED	A (ppb)	B (ppb)	1 (ppb)	2 (ppb)	3 (ppb)	4 (ppb)
ANIONIC (IC) EXTRACTABLES						
Sulfate	11.5	4.4	5.6	4.8	4	5.1
Fluoride	6600	335	10.2	12	12.5	43
Bromide		5.3	3	2.1	4.9	
Chloride	23		2.2	5.5	4	2
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC) (ppb)	1540	965	866	725	864	956

TABLE IV
 "PIRANHA" EXTRACTABLES (H₂SO₄:H₂O₂) FOR 1 MONTH @ 80°C
 LEACHABLES FROM 1 O-RING PER 100 MLS OF TEST FLUID
 BLANK CORRECTED TEST RESULTS

EXAMPLE ELEMENTAL EXTRACTABLE DETECTED	A (ppb)	B (ppb)	1 (ppb)	2 (ppb)	3 (ppb)	4 (ppb)
Al		48.5				0.1
Cu			1.2			
Ni		10.7				
Mg	17	15.3	1.3	1.6		15
Ba		0.7		1.1		
Sn	234					
Zn		2665				
Pb		1.4				
Cr			0.4	1.7		0.9
Fe		162	18	18.5	10	11.5
Ca		558	41.5	78	132	86

EXAMPLE 4

Perfluoroelastomer Polymer D is an elastomeric copolymer of TFE, PMVE and perfluoro-(8-cyano-5-methyl-3, 6-dioxo-1-octene) (8-CNVE) with iodo moieties present on the ends of some of the polymer chains. It as
5 prepared generally as described in U. S. Patent 4,972,038. Polymer D was compounded with trimethylallyl isocyanurate (TMAIC) and other ingredients as listed in Table II, molded/postcured and tested according to procedures described above. O-ring test specimens were prepared from die cut sheet stock. Specimens were presscured for 10' @ 177°C, then postcured in a
10 nitrogen atmosphere in a circulating oven by first increasing the temperature slowly from room temperature to 232°C over a 40 hour period followed by postcuring for 8 hours @ 232°C. Physical property test results are listed in Table II. "Wet" chemical extraction test results are listed in Table III and IV. The results listed in Table II are based on the average of three test-specimens.
15 The wet chemical extraction test results in Tables III and IV are based on the average of two samples tested.

EXAMPLE 5

A peroxide-curable elastomeric fluoropolymer E was prepared having a composition of 38% PMVE, 35% VF2, 26% TFE, 1% BTFB, and
20 0.18% Iodine. Mooney viscosity was measured as ML-10 (121°C) = 25.

A curable fluoroelastomer composition was prepared by mixing the following ingredients on a two-roll mill whose rolls were heated to about 25°C: 100 parts by weight of fluoropolymer E, 3 parts triallyl isocyanurate (TAIC), 2 parts "Lupersol" 101 peroxide (2, 5-dimethyl-2, 5-di(t-butyl peroxy)
25 hexane), and 0.5 parts octadecyl amine. The composition was cured, and the cure characteristics were measured with an oscillating disc rheometer (ODR) at a cure time of 12 minutes at 177°C according to ASTM D 2084 (3 deg. arc). The time required to obtain 90% of the cure state as determined by t'90 was 2.4 minutes. Test samples were press-cured for 10 minutes at 177°C and post-
30 cured in a circulating air oven for 24 hours at 200°C. Stress-strain properties were determined to be

100% modulus, $M_{100} = 1.2 \text{ MPa}$

tensile strength at break, $T_B = 3.2 \text{ MPa}$

elongation at break, $E_B = 186\%$

Hardness was determined according to ASTM D 2240 as Durometer A = 52 points. Compression set, measured on O-rings according to ASTM D 1414 in air, was 41 % after 70 hours at 200°C. The results are reported in Table V.

TABLE V
Curing of TFE/VF2/PMVE Fluoroelastomer

<u>EXAMPLE</u>	5
Fluoropolymer E	100
Diak #7	3
Armeen 18D	0.5
Lupersol 101	2

STOCK PROPERTIES

ODR 100 @ 177°C 3°Arc. 12 Minute Motor

M-L (lbs-in)	7.5
MH (lbs-in)	62.4
Ts2 (min)	1.0
Tc50 (min)	1.6
Tc90 (min)	2.4

MDR 2000 @ 177°C 0.5°Arc. 6 Minute Motor

M-L (lbs-in)	0.6
MH (lbs-in)	16.6
Ts-2 (min:sec.)	0:33
Tc50 (min:sec.)	0:42
Tc90 (min:sec.)	1:07

VULCANIZATE PROPERTIES

Press Cure: 10 Min./177°C

Post Cure: 24 Hrs./200°C

Physical Properties @ R.T. - Original

50% Modulus, MPa	0.9
100% Modulus, MPa	1.2
Tensile Strength, MPa	3.2
Elongation @ Break, %	186
Hardness, Duro A, Pts.	52
Specific Gravity	1.79

Compression Set, Method B

22 Hrs./200°C, %	21.3
70 Hrs./200°C, %	41.4

EXAMPLES 6 and 7

Fluoropolymer E of Example 5 was used in Example 6. For Example 7, a peroxide-curable fluoropolymer F was prepared from 50% VF₂, 29% HFP, 20% TFE, 0.6% BTFB, and 0.2% Iodine. Mooney viscosity was
5 measured as ML-10 (121°C) = 25.

A curable fluoroelastomer composition was prepared by mixing the following ingredients on a two-roll mill whose rolls were heated to about 25°C: 100 parts by weight fluoropolymer E, 3 parts triallyl isocyanurate (TAIC), 4 parts "Luperco" 101-XL peroxide and 0.5 parts octadecyl amine.
10 Cure characteristics of the composition were measured with an oscillating disc rheometer (ODR) at a cure time of 12 minutes at 177°C according to ASTM D 2084 (3deg.arc). The time required to obtain 90% of the cure state as determined by t'90 was 3.4 minutes. Test samples were press-cured for 10 minutes at 177°C and post-cured in a circulating air oven for 24 hours at
15 200°C. Stress-strain properties were determined according to ASTM D 412 as 100% modulus, M₁₀₀=1.4 MPa; tensile strength at break, T_B=5.2 MPa; elongation at break, E_B=186%. Hardness was determined according to ASTM D 2240 as Durometer A=52 points. Compression set, measured on O-rings according to ASTM D 1414 in air, was 41% after 70 hours at 200°C. The
20 results are reported in Table VI.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE C

A representative vinylidene fluoride/hexafluoropropylene Fluoropolymer G crosslinked with bisphenol cure system containing divalent metal was prepared so that a comparison could be made with the peroxide-curable fluoroelastomers shown in Table VI. This was prepared in the same
25 manner and cure conditions as those in Example 6 and results are shown in Tables VI, VII and VIII.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE D

Fluoropolymer E containing an inorganic pigment was prepared
30 so that a comparison could be made with the peroxide-curable fluoroelastomers shown in Table VI. This was prepared in the same manner and cure conditions as those in Example 6 and results are shown in Tables VI, VII and VIII.

TABLE VI
Curing of TFE/VF2/PMVE, TFE/HFP/VF2, and HFP/VF2 Fluoroelastomers

EXAMPLE	6	7	C	D
Fluoropolymer E	100	-	-	100
Fluoropolymer F	-	100	-	-
Fluoropolymer G	-	-	100	-
TEFLON® MP1500	25	25	25	25
Diak #7	3	3	-	3
Armeen 18D	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Luperco 101-XL	4	4	-	4
Maglite D (a)	-	-	3	-
Calcium Hydroxide	-	-	6	-
Ti-Pure® R960 (b)	-	-	-	5

STOCK PROPERTIES

Moonel Viscosity

ML 1 + 10/121°C	23.7	27.6	41.9	25.3
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QDR 100 @ 177°C. 3°Arc. 12 Minute Motor

M-L (lbs-in)	14.1	15.3	13	13.9
MH (lbs-in)	80.9	68.2	77.3	81.9
Ts2 (min)	0.9	1	2.5	0.9
Tc50 (min)	1.5	1.7	3.3	1.5
Tc90 (min)	2.4	2.7	3.5	2.4

MDR 2000 @ 177°C. 1°Arc. 6 Minute Motor

M-L (lbs-in)	1.9	2.5	2.2	1.8
MH (lbs-in)	24.6	20.7	26.6	26
Ts-2 (min:sec.)	0:26	0:28	1:29	0:26
Tc50 (min:sec.)	0:37	0:39	1:44	0:36
Tc90 (min:sec.)	1:05	1:04	2:23	1:01

VULCANIZATE PROPERTIES

Press Cure: 10 Min./177°C

Post Cure: 24 Hour/232°C

Physical Properties @ R.T. - Original

Hardness, Duro A, Pts.	68	68	67	68
50% Modulus, MPa	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7
100% Modulus, MPa	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.6
Tensile Strength, MPa	6	7.5	5.4	5.7
Elongation @ Break %	213	279	242	194
Specific Gravity	1.904	1.89	1.905	1.942

(a) Marine Magnesium Company

(b) Titanium dioxide - DuPont Company

TABLE VI - Continued**Curing of TFE/VF2/PMVE, TFE/HFP/VF2, and HFP/VF2 Fluoroelastomers**

EXAMPLE	6	7	C	D
<u>Compression Set Method B</u>				
70 Hr./23°C, %	9.7	13.9	5.5	8.3
70 Hr./150°C, %	20.8	18.1	11.1	19.4
336 Hr./150°C, %	26.4	32.0	13.9	27.8
70 Hr./200°C, %	47.2	44.4	22.2	47.2
336 Hr./200°C, %	73.6	77.8	33.4	87.5
70 Hr./250°C, %	93.1	94.5	59.7	97.1
<u>Heat Resistance, 70 Hr. @ 200°C</u>				
Hardness, Duro A, Pts.	69	69	67	70
Hardness Change, Pts.	1	1	0	2
100% Modulus, MPa	2.7	3.0	2.3	2.9
Modulus Change, %	-8	-20	-10	-12
Tensile Strength, MPa	6.9	9.5	6.3	7.2
Tensile Change, %	15	27	17	26
Elongation @ Break, %	223	289	254	209
Elongation Change, %	5	4	5	8
Weight Change, %	-2.8	-2.6	-0.2	-3.0
<u>Heat Resistance, 70 Hr. @ 250°C</u>				
Hardness, Duro A, Pts.	63	65	67	64
Hardness Change, Pts.	-5	-3	0	-4
100% Modulus, MPa	1.3	1.9	2.3	2.3
Modulus Change, %	-48	-24	5	-12
Tensile Strength, MPa	4.2	6.7	6.0	6.4
Tensile Change, %	-30	-11	11	12
Elongation @ Break, %	396	378	251	334
Elongation Change, %	86	35	4	72
Weight Change, %	-2.9	-2.6	-1.5	-3.1
<u>Heat Resistance, 70 Hr. @ 275°C</u>				
Hardness, Duro A, Pts.	59	61	66	61
Hardness Change, Pts.	-9	-7	-1	-7
100% Modulus, MPa	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9
Modulus Change, %	-28	-24	-10	-27
Tensile Strength, MPa	4.9	4.2	5.7	5.6
Tensile Change, %	-18	-44	6	-2
Elongation @ Break, %	400	273	308	383
Elongation Change, %	88	-2	27	97
Weight Change, %	-6.1	-6.0	-4.6	-6.4

TABLE VII
Ultrapure Deionized Water (UPDI) @ 80°C for 1 month
Blank Corrected Results
ICP-MS/GF-AA/IC/TOC

Metallic Extractable Detected	Example	6	7	C	D
Al		1.3	2.6	4.5	2.3
Cu		0.1	0.8	0.4	0.5
Mg		1.9	1.7	61.2	1.6
Zn		1.1	0.5	0.2	0.4
Ba			13.5	23.6	
Fe		12.4	0.9	0.9	0.9
Ca		157.4	43.9	>400	43.9
K		3.3	2.4	8	2.4
Na		4.9	5.6	16.5	5.6
Total Metallic Extractables		182.4	71.9	>515.3	57.6
Anionic/Cationic Extractables (IC)					
Bromide		20.7	13.5	5.1	24
Chloride				0.6	
Fluoride		236.4	17	268	30.4
Phosphate		2.6		3.1	2.6
Sulfate		24.2	9	25	24.2
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)		1750	1910	2650	2000

TABLE VIII

Piranha (H₂SO₄:H₂O₂) @ 80°C for 1 month
Blank Corrected Results
ICP-MS/GF-AA

**Metallic
Extractable
Detected**

Example	6	7	C	D
Al	3.2	10.6	7.8	2.2
Cu	3.4			
Mg	1.4	2	195.7	1.1
Ba		13.3	33.7	
Cr	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.4
Fe	12.5	12.4	30.5	19
Ca	49.1	38.6	572	46.9
Na	6.6	5.1	10.1	5.1
K	0.4	1.9	2.9	
Ti				71
Total Metallic Extractables	78.7	85.6	855.1	146.4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The test results shown above demonstrate the effect that various compound additives (metallic acid acceptors and crosslinking agents, elemental carbon fillers, inorganic pigments, etc.) have on performance in wet chemical environments. Of the fluoroelastomer compound examples tested, Examples 1 through 4, 6 and 7 exhibit significantly lower metallic, anionic and TOC extractables in both ultrapure deionized water and in "piranha" vice Comparative Examples A through D. Comparative Example A exhibits high anionic and TOC extractables in ultrapure deionized water and high metallic (Tin) extractables in "piranha". The high Tin extractables in "piranha" can be directly attributed to the use of a metallic crosslinking catalyst in Comparative Example A. Comparative Example B exhibits high metallic (Zinc and Potassium) extractables in ultrapure deionized water and high metallic (Zinc) extractables in "piranha". The high Zinc extractables in both ultrapure deionized water and in "piranha" can be directly attributed to the use of a metallic oxide acid acceptor and metallic crosslinking agent in Comparative Example B.

Comparative Example C exhibits high metallic (Calcium) extractables in ultrapure deionized water and high metallic (Calcium and Magnesium) extractables in "piranha". This can be directly attributed to the use of both Calcium Hydroxide and Magnesium Oxide as acid acceptors/cure accelerators in Comparative Example C. Metallic oxides are typically used as acid acceptors in fluoroelastomer compounds. They serve primarily as "acid scavengers", absorbing hydrogen fluoride generated as a curing process by-product. However, they can also serve as potential sources of extractables in wet chemical process environments. Comparative Example D exhibits high metallic (Titanium) extractables in "piranha". This can be directly attributed to the use of Titanium Dioxide as an inorganic pigment in Comparative Example D. Examples 1 through 7 have been specifically formulated for use in semiconductor wet chemical process applications. They avoid the use of metallic oxide acid acceptors and metallic crosslinking agents through the use of novel compounding techniques.

WE CLAIM:

1. A fluoroelastomer composition comprising:
(A) at least one peroxide-curable elastomeric fluoropolymer, and, based on the elastomeric fluoropolymer,
5 (B) about 0.1 - 5.0 phr organic acid acceptor;
(C) about 0.1 - 5.0 phr organic peroxide; and
(D) about 0.1 - 10.0 phr coagent for the organic peroxide;
the composition being substantially free from extractable metals and metal compounds.
- 10 2. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 1 further comprising at least about 2 phr fluoropolymer filler.
3. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 2 wherein the fluoropolymer filler consists essentially of a polymer of tetrafluoroethylene.
4. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 1 wherein the
15 elastomeric fluoropolymer is a perfluoropolymer.
5. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 1 wherein the elastomeric fluoropolymer is a hydrogen-containing fluoropolymer.
6. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 3 wherein the fluoropolymer filler consists essentially of a copolymer of TFE and PPVE.
- 20 7. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 3 wherein the fluoropolymer filler consists essentially of a copolymer of TFE and HFP.
8. A fluoroelastomer of Claim 1 wherein the organic acid acceptor consists essentially of at least one oxirane.
9. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 1 wherein the
25 organic acid acceptor consists essentially of 1, 8-bis-(dimethylamino) naphthalene.
10. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 1 wherein the organic acid acceptor consists essentially of octadecyl amine.
11. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 1 wherein the organic peroxide consists essentially of 2, 5-dimethyl - 2, 5-di(t-butyl peroxy)
30 hexane.
12. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 1 further comprising at least about 1 phr of plasticizer.
13. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 11 wherein the plasticizer consists essentially of perfluoropolyether.

14. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 1 wherein the extractable metals and metal compounds are present in quantities of less than about 500 ppb.

5 15. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 14 wherein the extractable metals and metal compounds are present in quantities of less than about 200 ppb.

16. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 14 wherein the fluoroelastomer composition is substantially free from elemental carbon.

10 17. A fluoroelastomer composition of Claim 1 wherein the fluoroelastomer composition is substantially free from inorganic compounds.

18. A cured article prepared from a composition of Claim 1.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In. ational Application No

PCT/US 94/07593

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C08K5/00 C08L27/12 //(C08K5/00, 5:00, 5:00, 5:14), (C08L27/12, 27:12, 27:18)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C08K C08L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP,A,0 365 053 (E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY) 25 April 1990 see page 6, line 17 see page 6, line 27-30 see page 6, line 34-52 see page 11; table 2 see page 8; example 1 -----	1-18

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 October 1994

Date of mailing of the international search report

03.11.94

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 94/07593

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